

# ANOTHER COLLOSSAL BLUNDER THE MESOPOTAMIAN CAMPAIGN BREAKS DOWN ON TIGRIS RIVER

Surrender of General Townshend to the Turks With 13,000 Men After Withstanding Siege of Nearly Five Months

## FACED WITH DEATH BY STARVATION

The Ottoman Troops Had Beaten Back Successive Relief Expeditions Until Supplies Were Entirely Exhausted

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LONDON, April 29.—Major General Townshend, commander of the British forces besieged at Kut El Amara, Mesopotamia, by Turkish forces since last December, has surrendered. This information was contained in a British official statement issued this afternoon.

The official statement added that Gen. Townshend destroyed all his guns and munition before surrendering.

It is estimated that the force surrendered consists of about 13,000 men. The following official announcement was made:

"After a resistance protracted for 143 days, and conducted with a gallantry and fortitude that will be forever memorable, Gen. Townshend has been compelled by the final exhaustion of his supplies, to surrender."

"Before doing so, he destroyed his guns and munitions."

"The force under him consists of 2970 British troops of all ranks and service and some 6,000 Indian troops and their followers."

"The stubborn defense of Kut El Amara and the ultimate disaster will live in the history of British operations in the Far East, besides the desperate defense of Khartoum against overwhelming odds by the hero Chinese Gordon."

Lake Gordon, Townshend has fought a battle for existence against vastly superior forces and has evidently held on until further endurance became impossible. The help that is on the way, like that which went to the aid of Gordon, will arrive too late and England's proud banner has been dragged in the dust of a defeat that might have been avoided."

Gen. Townshend probably was driven to surrender to avoid starvation of his forces.

A recent official Turkish communication said that the position of the British at Kut-El-Amara was critical and that they were expecting to receive small supplies of food by aeroplane. An official statement received yesterday from London showed that a last effort to send supplies to the garrison had failed. It was announced that a ship laden with supplies had been sent up the Tigris, that it had been grounded about four miles east of the city.

Less than a score of miles away, on the banks of the Tigris river, below the city, is a relief army which for months has been attempting to reach the beleaguered forces of Gen. Townshend. Of late the Turkish resistance has increased and, aided by floods, they have been able to hold the British in check.

No official figures have been given out as to the number of troops which left the Persian gulf in November of 1914 on the expedition which has now ended in surrender. Unofficially the number has been estimated as high as 50,000, but it was probably considerably smaller than this. This force has suffered heavy losses in severe battles with the Turks.

The surrender of Gen. Townshend is one of the few instances of the war in which an entire fighting unit of important numbers has laid down its arms.

It is one of the largest bodies of troops of the entire allies that have surrendered and larger than any other captured French or British force.

Early in December of last year Gen. Townshend's army was beaten in battle at Ctesiphon, eighteen miles below Bagdad, and retreated to Kut-El-Amara.

## German Gains on East Front; No Changes in the West

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

Another phase of the ill-fated British campaign in Mesopotamia has closed with the surrender of General Townshend and the garrison at Kut-El-Amara on the Tigris river, about 150 miles below Bagdad. Some 13,000 men in all laid down their arms to the Turks after having destroyed all their guns and munitions.

The British Mesopotamian campaign waged along the Tigris from the Persian gulf northward almost to the gates of Bagdad, had as its chief aim the capture of that ancient city. To divert Turkish forces from Gallipoli was another object. When almost at the point of achieving its main object last year, the effort broke down at Ctesiphon, 18 miles from Bagdad when the Turks, alarmed for the safety of the town of fabled memory, rushed up reinforcements, inflicted a defeat upon the British and compelled their retreat 110 miles down the Tigris to Kut-El-Amara where the Turks soon had them securely bottled up.

General Townshend held out for 143 days, his supplies steadily growing lower as he awaited the relief army which, first under General Aylmer and then under General Gorringe, battled its way up the Tigris toward him. This army encountered strong positions of the Turks below Kut-El-Amara on both sides of the river and although several of these were carried it has not been able to work much closer to the beleaguered garrison than a score of miles because of the stubborn Turkish resistance and flood conditions on the Tigris.

The situation about Verdun has not undergone any change of note. Paris reports the failure of a German attack, pressed with the help of flaming clouds, near the Thiaumont farm east of the Meuse and the checking of a German attempt to assault the French lines west of the Meuse near Hill 304. Berlin announces that French attacks at Verdun's hill and nearby were repulsed.

On the Russian front the Germans have captured Russian positions south of Narva lake and have taken 5,000 prisoners including four staff officers, together with one cannon, 28 machine guns and 10 mine throwers. Russian efforts to reclaim the lost ground were defeated.

Official statements were lacking during the day, Saturday, regarding the situation in Dublin. News dispatches report the military gaining the ascendancy but with the rebels still in possession of important points all of which, however, were declared to be commanded by the regulars. Fires of a serious nature have broken out, according to the current telegrams, and street fighting is continuing.

Month's Casualties  
LONDON, April 29, 10:15 a. m.—British casualties this month as compiled from published lists are slightly in excess of those in March. The total from all fields of operations is 1,255 officers and 19,256 men compared with 1,107 officers and 19,317 men in March.

British Steamer Sunk  
LONDON, April 29, 12:21 a. m.—The unnamed British steamer Teal of London has been sunk by a submarine. The crew was rescued after having taken to the boats.

Commerce Raider Abroad  
NEW YORK, April 29.—War risk insurance both in this city and in London stiffened today as the result of a report in financial circles that another German commerce raider had slipped through the British sea patrol.

COST OF STRIKE  
\$650,000 IN WAGES  
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 29.—Advertisements in the afternoon newspapers announcing that the striking employees of the Westinghouse companies had already lost \$650,000 in wages in their effort to enforce the eight hour day, made up the most important development of the most uneventful day since the strike was declared a week ago.

An order was issued by the county authorities closing the saloons in Bradock and McKeesport, to which places, it was reported an effort would be made to extend the strike, and in McKeesport, where the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad shops were closed by a strike of machinists yesterday, are located.

## SUICIDE OF AN INVENTOR

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WORCESTER, Mass., April 29.—Frank O. Woodland, 36 years old, inventor of automatic machines for labeling bottles and for banding cigars, in general use all over the country, committed suicide today in his home by taking poison.

Besieged by a large army of Turks, the British defended themselves so successfully that the Turks at length decided to starve them out. After it became evident that the army at Kut-El-Amara would be unable to fight its way out, a relief expedition was dispatched. As it drew near Kut-El-Amara it was opposed by formidable bodies of Turks and its advance was stopped. The Turks, taking the offensive, pushed back the British and inflicted large losses on them.

Throughout the Mesopotamian campaign the fighting has been heavy and the losses severe. On April 14 it was admitted the Tigris army up to that time had lost 8100 men. In one engagement alone, at Beitsa, on the right bank of the Tigris, a few miles below Kut-El-Amara, the British lost 4000, according to an announcement from the Turkish war office last week.

## CENSOR'S GRIP HOLDS SOURCES OF IRISH NEWS

Only Official Reports of the Sinn Fein Outbreak Are Permitted to Be Published and House to House Telephone Conversation Cut

## IT IS ONLY CERTAIN TROUBLE WIDESPREAD

Fighting Still Proceeding in Dublin and Troops Are Rushed to Other Centers in the South Where Outbreaks Are Feared

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WATERFORD, Ireland, April 29, 10 p. m. (Via London, April 29, 9 p. m.)—Southern Ireland today was in the grip of a stern military censorship which virtually cut it off from all news of the stirring events now occurring in Dublin. The newspapers here have been permitted to publish only the briefest official reports.

Even telephone communication from house to house has been forbidden. The situation here is said to be a good example of the conditions prevailing under military rule in other sections of Ireland.

Waterford hears that Dublin is surrounded by a great cordon of troops and that railway traffic from southern Ireland to Dublin has been suspended, as far as the public is concerned, beyond points approximately 20 miles from the city. Various dispatches from unconfirmed sources regarding events in various parts of the country outside of Dublin have been received by word of mouth. With all these reports, however, is coupled the statement that the military have the situation well in hand and that sporadic outbreaks have been quickly crushed.

The Sinn Fein, which is credited with fomenting the uprising has an organization of considerable extent, but it is said to be strongest in Cork, Kerry, Wexford and Dublin. Of these organizations that of Wexford appears quite active, but Cork is said to be quiet. No report has been received here from Kerry. Waterford has only a small body of Sinn Feiners but every precaution is being taken.

The postoffice, which controls the wires to London, was guarded all last night by a large body of police, and the big bridge over the river was lifted, presumably to prevent a possible invasion of the main section of the town from the direction of Wexford.

On every hand one hears of queries for news and strong condemnation for the revolutionists.

Rebels Stronghold Gone  
LONDON, April 29, 1:20 p. m.—Field Marshal Viscount French, commander of the home forces, reports that the general postoffice at Dublin which has been the principal stronghold of the Sinn Feiners has been burned down. Connelly one of the leaders of the rebels is reported to have been killed.

Many of the rebels have been taken prisoner and the revolt in Dublin is on the verge of collapse. In the rest of Ireland the situation generally is satisfactory.

Overlooked a Wire  
DUBLIN, April 29, 10 p. m.—Baron Wimborne, lord lieutenant of Ireland, expressed to The Associated Press at the vice royal lodge today the assurance that the sedition movement would be suppressed in the course of a few days.

The victory was full of praise for the loyalty displayed by the great majority of the Irish people and considered the momentary success gained and the damage done by the rebels as small when viewed in connection with the surprise of the outbreak and the evident preparations made for it.

The country outside of Dublin, except for a few isolated places has, he declared, remained peaceful.

Baron Wimborne when requested to (Continued on Page Two)

## Conferees Hopelessly Apart On Army Increase Measure The 250,000 Men Provision

Minor Points of Difference Senate Amendments, the Federal Volunteer Reserve and Government Nitrate Plant

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Conferees of the house and senate after three days' deliberation on the army reorganization bill the first of the big preparedness measures, have come to a complete deadlock over several important features. It was strongly intimated tonight that they would report a disagreement and ask their respective branches of congress for further instructions.

"Hopelessly apart" on the size of the regular army and the proposals for a volunteer reserve army and a government nitrate plant, was the report of one member of the conference tonight and he declared congress would be adjourned in the near future to pass again on these features of the measure.

The senate conferees are insisting determinedly upon the provision in the senate bill for a regular army of 250,000 men and Representative Kahn, the republican house conferee is standing with them. Representatives Hay and Dent, however, are insistent upon the house provision for 149,000 men.

Representative Kahn pointed out to the conferees today that his amendment for an army of 200,000 had been defeated by only a small majority when the house had the bill under consideration. Since that time "big army" men contend, international developments have caused a change of feeling on the part of many representatives.

Some administration leaders think that the house might now be brought to accept the 250,000 senate proposal should the conferees fail to agree.

It was said tonight that should a disagreement be reported the senate might agree to give up its volunteer army plan and accept instead the national guard reserve provision of the house bill and might also abandon the government nitrate plant provision which, it is conceded, generally, never will be accepted by the house.

Flood Control Program  
WASHINGTON, April 29.—A five year improvement and flood control program for the Mississippi and Sacramento rivers is provided for in a bill favorably reported to the house today by the flood control committee. It appropriates \$35,000,000 for the Mississippi and \$4,000,000 for the Sacramento to cover work during the five years.

The measure makes no provision for a federal waterways council, which a special committee recommended to distribute appropriations and supervise the improvement work.

In its report the committee estimated that the requirements of the Sacramento were a total of \$9,000,000 annually. It was suggested that a great part of the appropriation would go to the removal of debris deposited by hydraulic mining. The committee was told that the deposits were greatly handicapping navigation, and that federal aid would not only make the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys accessible to water commerce but would make possible the protection of a million and a quarter of acres of fertile land from flood.

JURY AT LAST  
[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BOULDER, Colo., April 29.—A jury was secured late today in the trial of Riemer Dickens, charged with the murder of his father, W. H. Dickens, a Longmont banker, on November 29 last. Six days had been consumed in the impasse of a jury, during which time 290 veniremen were called and 90 examined.

The trial will be resumed Monday with the opening statement by the prosecution.

## PREPAREDNESS IN SWEDEN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

STOCKHOLM, April 29. (Via London, 10:35 p. m.)—The Swedish government has asked the riksdag for a vote of 40,000,000 kroner for the army; 12,250,000 kroner for the navy, and 4,000,000 kroner for hastening the construction of destroyers and submarines. The army expenditure is proposed principally for the heavy artillery, engineering and supply services and for the equipment of the landsturm.

## ROOSEVELT TALKS TO ILLINOIS LAWYERS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

CHICAGO, April 29.—The declaration by Theodore Roosevelt in his address tonight at the banquet of the Illinois Bar Association that the ultimate answer to the question of preparedness in this country must be universal training, was greeted by a storm of cheers.

Colonel Roosevelt was visibly affected by the demonstration and declared that it put heart into him and that he would go out and preach that doctrine with his head up and with increased confidence. It is said, it was the most largely attended banquet given by lawyers since the dinner of the New York Bar Association three years ago.

Colonel Roosevelt discussed the present world war crisis, and though the dinner was non-political, he gave his views as to what he considered the duty of every citizen in these trying times and the course this country should pursue.

## STRUCK A ROCK AT THE OUTSET OF CONFERENCE

General Obregon Required by His Instructions to Limit Discussion to the Question of Withdrawal of American Troops

## SESSION BRIEF AND FRUITLESS

Americans Furnished With Program Involving Occupation of Mexican Zone Until Villistas and Other Bandits Are Disposed of

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

EL PASO, Texas, April 29.—Two conflicting propositions developed immediately after the beginning, in the Mexican customs house in Juarez late this afternoon, the first conference to decide the future disposition of the American expeditionary forces in Mexico. They are understood temporarily to have increased the gravity of the negotiations.

The initial meeting was held behind closed doors in the big green-tinted room which Francisco Villa used as his council chamber when he dominated northern Mexico and Juarez was his headquarters. General Hugh L. Scott and Frederick Funston represented the United States. The Mexican conferees were General Alvaro Obregon, Mexican minister of war, and General Jacinto Trevino, military commander of the northeast district of Mexico.

The progress of the negotiations was not divulged, but from an authoritative source two things were learned: First, that the Mexican representatives reiterated the wish expressed in General Carranza's recent note to the Washington government that the American troops should be withdrawn from Mexican soil at an early date; second, that they were informed by the American officials that the latter were not empowered to discuss the withdrawal of General Pershing's column.

It is understood the American representatives told the Mexican conferees that if the de facto government insisted on an American evacuation, the conference would go into a deadlock and the whole matter would revert to a diplomatic discussion between Washington and Mexico City.

The Mexicans further were informed that the purpose of the present conference, so far as the United States is concerned, is the development of a specific plan for the co-operation of the American and de facto armies in wiping out the bandit groups that have spilled so much blood along the border and have repeatedly taken American life in the interior of Mexico.

It is understood that General Obregon, the Mexican minister of war, prior to the conference openly expressed a disinclination to discuss any other subject than withdrawal, and that he carried this attitude into the initial meeting.

After the primary issues had been broached, however, he is reported to have carried out the intention he announced shortly after his arrival on Friday, of meeting Generals Scott and Funston "half way" in the negotiations.

The attitude of secretiveness maintained by the officials taking part in the conference gave rise to all sorts of speculations in El Paso tonight. Mexican officials declared their intention of allowing the Americans to do all the talking. The latter refused all but the most inconsequential information regarding developments.

In well informed quarters, however, the opinion was freely expressed that the present negotiations are unlikely to lead to any definite disarmament. It was pointed out that the Carranza government could not afford to take any step that would endanger its (Continued on Page Three)

## AWAITING WORD FROM GERMANY AS TO SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 29.—No definite word forecasting Germany's decision in the submarine controversy has reached Washington tonight and officials apparently were almost as much in the dark regarding the outcome as they were when the American demands were dispatched to Berlin eleven days ago.

It was said, however, that a report from Ambassador Gerard regarding his conference with the emperor was momentarily expected. The secretary said that when the report arrived it was doubtful whether its contents would

be made public until after he had presented it to President Wilson for his confirmation. Should it come in tomorrow the dispatch probably will not be given out until Monday, it then.

The German embassy also was without information on the subject. Press dispatches quoting a Berlin newspaper as saying that the German reply, which will decide whether diplomatic relations between the two governments shall be severed, had been drafted and would be delivered early next week were read with interest. Many officials were inclined to doubt whether there had been time since the conference at army headquarters to prepare the note.

Judge George Gray of Delaware expressed the belief that moral rather than armed force will evolve a concert of international authority after the war for preservation of peace.

Regarding the formation of a world court, with international police power, Judge Gray said: "I do not think there will ever be such a concert of nations that by armed force they can force a nation to obey mandates of morality through international law. But when world wide opinion is formed there will be a force that will be found ample against a recalcitrant nation for violation of international law."

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Opposition to the United States to champion and uphold now and after the European war ends the fundamental principles of international law was the theme of addresses at a banquet tonight closing the tenth annual meeting of the American Society of International Law.

Robert Lansing, the secretary of state, made the principal address at the banquet which followed a business session when Elihu Root was re-elected its president.

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WASHINGTON, April 29.—The only dispatch to the war department made public today was one from Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, reporting his call on General Alvaro Obregon, the Carranza war minister last night, at Juarez, and adding that the visit had been a pleasant one. Officials construed it to indicate that General Scott himself was impressed with the idea that a satisfactory understanding could be reached with General Obregon as to future movements of troops in pursuit of Villa.

Secretary Baker again declined to discuss the scope of the mission assigned to General Scott at the forthcoming conferences with General Obregon.

Since the whole question of Carranza's formal suggestion that the American forces be withdrawn is a state department matter and never has been officially transmitted to the war department, it is clear that only

the military aspect of the situation at the border and beyond can be formally considered by the conferees.

An indication of the spirit in which General Obregon came to the conference is found in advices that when he passed through Chihuahua he ordered released all supplies shipped from the border for the American troops and detained by Carranza commanders. General Scott unquestionably would have asked that this be done had not the war minister already taken the necessary step. It is understood the shipments now are going forward.

State department advices reported quiet in Mexico City and elsewhere in Mexico although about seventy Americans are gathered at Mazatlan and Manzanillo on the west coast, awaiting transportation to the United States. The department had nothing to confirm rumors that the presence of American troops in Mexico was creating a crisis for the de facto government at the capital.

## PRELIMINARY POLITENESS CONSTRUED AS GOOD SIGN

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